Oregon
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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

July 08, 2025

To: Don Everingham, Area Director
From: Dan Goody, Astoria District Forester

CC: Michael Wilson, State Forests Division Chief
Nick Palazzotto, State Forests Deputy Division Chief
Colleen Kiser, State Forests Planning Manager

Re: Information Item – Approved Annual Operations Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 State Forests Annual Operations Plan (AOP) for the Astoria District has been completed. During my review of this plan, I have found that it conforms to the Oregon Forest Practices Act and is consistent with the 2010 Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan, the 2025 Astoria District Implementation Plan (IP), draft Habitat Conservation Plan, state forest operational policies and strategies, the Coho Lawsuit Settlement Agreement (2023), Stewardship Agreement, and the FY 2026 State Forests budget instructions.

During its preparation, this plan was reviewed by technical specialists from within the department and biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Information on the consultations with other agencies can be found in Appendix C. The draft AOP also underwent a 45-day public comment period. All comments were carefully considered through the lens of aligning with State Forests current plans and policies and incorporated into the documents where appropriate. Some comments that are more specific to operations will be further considered during implementation. All changes that have occurred since the public comment period ended are summarized in Appendix D of the AOP.

As prepared, this AOP consists of 54.4 million board feet (MMBF) of harvest volume. This volume will be achieved through 436 acres of partial cut harvest and 1,225 acres of regeneration harvest. There are eight primary operations that are planned to be auctioned and two alternate operations within this plan. The operations are estimated to generate gross revenues of approximately $24,124,500 and net revenues of $22,361,000. All sales are within Clatsop County.

Reforestation and young stand management activities and investments are aligned with FMP objectives and budget considerations. Recreation facilities and trails are managed and maintained for safety, positive experiences and protecting other resources like water quality and are consistent with the FY 2026 budget instructions.

Approval of this plan does not constitute final approval of individual project details. Individual operations are subject to additional review processes including public comment considerations, adjacent landowner engagement, and additional field review at the district and division staff level before implementation. The planned amount and location of all management activities may be adjusted and modified to account for any significant changes identified during implementation such as market variables, site specific conditions, and discovery of threatened and endangered species. The alternate sales in this AOP may be used to replace the primary sales that cannot be completed as planned. Actual revenue realized from this AOP could change due to market fluctuations. Harvest operations and the associated project work provide an accurate picture of what will be designed and prepared for contract in FY 2026. Due to the time lag with contract duration, most of the actual harvest operations with

associated revenues will not occur for a period of one to two years beyond the end of the fiscal year. Forest management activities such as reforestation and recreation projects will occur in FY 2026.

The official copy of this AOP will be on file at the District office. Additional copies are available at the State Forests Program office in Salem, and are also available on the ODF web site at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx

Approved:

Dan Goody
Astoria District Forester

Astoria District

2026 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

Astoria DISTRICT

Fiscal Year 2026 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

OVERVIEW

This plan describes the activities and outcomes that Oregonians can expect to see on Astoria District for Fiscal Year 2026. The Astoria District is an actively managed forest, valued by many Oregonians for its mixture of environmental, economic, and social benefits. This plan supports this mixture and provides a balance of these benefits as required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 629-035-0020). We strive to manage the forest sustainably, so that the benefits from the forest can be delivered in perpetuity. The forest harvesting is planned at a sustainable level; a level that our computer models suggest can be harvested year after year without reduction.

Forest habitat is expected to develop so the forest has a mixture of habitat types for all of Oregon's native wildlife. Recreational opportunities are diverse and high quality, allowing for off-highway vehicles, bicycling, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and more, striving to minimize user and environmental conflicts in the context of a working forest.

Managing a public forest has its challenges. In addition to the challenges of providing the opportunities described above, the forest is expected to be financially self-supporting. About two-thirds of the revenues from state forest timber sales go to local counties and other taxing districts, including schools. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) uses the remaining third of the revenue to manage the forests and keep them healthy, through activities including fire protection, tree planting, thinning, research and monitoring, recreation services, road maintenance and stream habitat improvement. We are striving to continue to provide the current opportunities and are considering a few opportunities for change.

Every year in the Forest, agency staff learn new things and find new challenges and opportunities. In preparing this plan, the agency has consulted with ODF's wildlife biologists, aquatic and riparian specialist, geotechnical engineer, road engineer as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The plan will undergo a 45-day public comment period. The operations will be shared with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

This Annual Operations Plan will be reviewed by the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (representing the counties that deeded land to ODF), the State Forests Advisory Committee (composed of Oregonians representing many interests), a variety of interest groups, as well as Oregonians in general.

The activities shown in the Summary Document and appendices are estimates based on plans, information, and conditions as known at this point in time. The type, amount, and specific activities will be further adjusted based on field work conducted and on updated assessments that occur during the 2026 fiscal year.

A short summary of activities planned for the coming year:

- Planning on planting approximately 485,000 trees on 1,660 acres. Conducting vegetation and animal management activities on 3,225 acres to ensure the survival and growth of young stands.
- Conducting density or operational surveys for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets
- Protecting streams and water resources through a series of buffers and seasonal restrictions.
- Stream improvement projects. The ODF Aquatic and Riparian Specialist will be consulted to help identify potential stream improvement candidates and will consult with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish biologists as needed.
- Habitat development projects such as retaining green trees in clearcut areas, and leaving down wood, all for wildlife benefits in harvest areas and future forests.
- Constructing approximately 6.3 miles of road and improvement, surface rock replacement, and/or maintenance on approximately 60.2 miles of road to ensure ditch water is dispersed and filtered as much as possible, keeping runoff from entering streams. These roads provide access to timber harvest as well as various recreational opportunities.
- Proposing to harvest approximately 54.4 million board feet of timber volume, through modified clearcuts and partial cuts, generating revenue of an estimated $22.4 (after subtracting Work Order Contract Costs) million net value.
- Operating and maintaining developed facilities in a safe, clean, and responsible manner.

- Providing a safe and clean environment for the myriad of dispersed activities that occur across the forest – hunting, camping, angling, sight-seeing, target shooting, swimming, mushroom picking, etc.
- Maintaining, managing, and patrolling the 28 miles of motorized and 21 miles of non-motorized trails, striving to protect the trail investments, providing for visitor safety, address developing trail issues, and protect water quality.
- Supporting the important volunteer network that assists in forest management.
- Providing a firewood cutting program and miscellaneous forest products permits (salal, mushrooms, etc.) as done in 2024.
- Supporting ongoing research on the district, in partnership with research cooperatives and universities.

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INTRODUCTION

This annual operation plan outlines activities on state-owned forestland managed by the Astoria District for Fiscal Year 2026, which begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2026. This document describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals, strategies, and objectives of the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, the draft Habitat Conservation Plan, the Coho Lawsuit Settlement Agreement (2023), Stewardship Agreement, and the Astoria District 2025 Implementation Plan. Please refer to the district Implementation Plan for more specific information on physical characteristics and other district resource information.

The Annual Operations Plan document is divided into five major categories: Integrated Forest Management; Planning and Information Systems; Public Information and Education; Administration, and Appendices. A short summary of proposed activities is listed within this introduction. In addition to describing forest management activities for Fiscal Year 2026, Appendix F describes any modifications to the Forest Land Management Classification System. Appendix G describes any modifications to the Astoria District Landscape Design*.

The proposed harvest operations and activities are planned to be designed, engineered, and submitted for processing during the Fiscal Year 2026 time period. Actual on-the-ground operations will likely not occur during Fiscal Year 2026 due to the time-lag associated with contract duration, which could be one to three years after auction. In contrast, reforestation, young stand management, recreation management, and planning activities will be carried out during Fiscal Year 2026.

A 45-day public comment period will be held from April 18, 2025 through June 3, 2025. The District Forester will review and consider all comments received before approving this plan. Any changes to the documents after the public review period will be described in Appendix D of the approved plan.
Accomplishments of forest management activities that occurred under previous Annual Operations Plans can be found in several reports, including the *State Forester's Annual Report for the Association of Oregon Counties* and the *Common School Forest Lands Annual Report*. These reports are available through the local district office or online.**

*Minor/major modifications and the procedures for making these changes are described in Astoria District IP.
**The State Forests' individual district annual reports are available on the Oregon Dept. of Forestry website under "Reports." You can access here: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/Reports.aspx

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Timber Harvest Operations

Overview of Timber Harvest Operations

All of the Primary and Alternate harvest operations and many of the other forest management activities have been reviewed by ODF's wildlife biologists, aquatic and riparian specialist, geotechnical engineer, road engineer, and planning manager, as well as fish and wildlife biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. All of the operations will be reviewed against the State Historic Preservation Office and General Land Office databases for potential impact to cultural resources. Occasionally, operations may contain a resource or activity where review with another state agency, such as the Department of Agriculture is warranted. Written comments from the external resource specialists and the resolution of those comments can be found in Appendix C.

The Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan is estimated to produce 52.4 million board feet in volume, generate gross revenues of approximately $22.6 million and net revenues of $21.0 million. The volume objective is slightly over the 52 million board foot target outlined in the Astoria District's 2025 Implementation Plan. The goal is to achieve the average of the Annual Harvest Objective over the expected duration for the Implementation Plan. However, some events may result in an Annual Operations Plan volume that is farther from the Annual Harvest Objective target. These events may consist of, but are not limited to, storm damage, insect and/or disease outbreaks, prepared timber cruise results versus Annual Operations Plan volume estimates, timber market conditions or other significant events. Alternate timber sales included in the Annual Operations Plan may be sold as primary operations in response to any of these circumstances. In the instance where volume targets are achieved prior to all the primary sales being sold, one or more of the remaining primary sales may move into the following fiscal year, contributing to that year's annual volume objective.

Additional operations may produce timber volume for the district during the 2026 fiscal year but are not included in this Annual Operation Plan. These are generally small areas, produce little volume, and/or are time sensitive in nature. These sales do not require significant effort to develop and execute and will comply with all policies, the district Implementation Plan, and the Forest Management Plan. Examples of these sales include salvage, pulp sales, removal of hazard trees, pole sales, etc.

Table 1. Volume Harvest Objective of Annual Operations Plan Harvest Compared to Implementation Plan Annual Objective. Volume is Million Board Feet.

Harvest Objectives	2025 Implementation Plan Objective	Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan
Volume (Million Board Feet of Timber Volume)	52	54.4

Overview of Structural Components

The guidelines for managing structural habitat components listed under Landscape Management Strategy 3 in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (pg. 4-52), will be followed for the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan. Structural components may be retained at higher levels in some units and at lower levels in other units. The intent is to achieve the targets outlined in the Forest Management Plan strategies in a given annual operations plan.

The green tree retention target for regeneration harvest units is an average of five trees per acre in the Northwest Forest Management Plan. Tree arrangements for this Annual Operations Plan may include; scattered individual trees, clumps of trees, and trees concentrated in and adjacent to riparian management areas, inner gorge areas or headwalls. The final decision on the location and arrangement of the green trees is made while the sale is being laid out to incorporate information on potential minor tree species, unique stand features, steep slopes, visual considerations, reforestation considerations, etc. To promote diversity on the landscape a variety of green tree placement strategies will be used.

The Northwest Forest Management Plan strategy for hard snags is to manage for at least two per acre on average across the landscape. The Forest Management Plan strategy for Down Woody Debris is to retain an average of 600 to 900 cubic feet of hard conifer logs (class 1 & 2) per acre during regeneration harvest. Strategies for retaining snags and down wood are determined using a current condition assessment from forest inventory data or timber cruising data. The need for snag creation in each unit is evaluated based on cruise or inventory information that documents snags in decay class 1 and 2 in the sale and surrounding landscape. Areas with less than 2 hard snags per acre will be evaluated and an appropriate snag prescription will be developed as needed. Down Wood will continue to be created through bucking practices, leaving felled snags in the unit and tops on ground yarding areas.

The Astoria district has experienced a number of large wind and snow break events over the last 10-15 years. This has produced a large number of residual snags and down woody components across the landscape. Due to this, snag creation is generally not pursued. If snags are found to be deficient in an area, generally additional leave trees will be retained with the assumption that wind and or ice will cause a certain percentage of these to become snags.

In addition to the leave tree strategies within the Forest Management Plan, all timber sales within Fiscal Year 2026 will also abide by the green tree retention strategies of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Two trees per acre will be retained within any forest stand harvested using regeneration harvest techniques. Trees selected for retention will be outside of Riparian Conservation Areas and will be assessed during each final harvest so that selected trees will not be removed in subsequent rotations and will contribute to long-term recruitment of large diameter snags and downed wood. Overlaps may occur with the green tree retention strategies of the Forest Management Plan. Leave tree configuration will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan strategies.

Climate Change and Carbon Storage

Climate change and carbon sequestration are generally topics related to higher-level goals and strategies in a Forest Management Plan. While the current Forest Management Plan doesn't address carbon or climate change directly, the main strategies of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan (2021) are being implemented during this transition period through the implementation of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies combined with the current Forest Management Plan requirements and will result in a variety of forest stand conditions that maintain healthy, multi-species, vigorously growing forests, which will contribute to resilient healthy forests into the future.

Under these current plans, large portions of the landscape provide carbon storage and will continue to do so long into the future. Areas that have high carbon storage potential, especially for those that can provide benefits for threatened and endangered species habitat, water quality, and educational and recreation opportunities for Oregonians have been identified. These include areas that have a desired future condition of Layered or Older Forest Structure, draft Habitat Conservation Areas, Riparian Conservation Areas, no harvest wildlife areas, high value conservation areas, other sensitive areas, and forested areas that are inoperable, etc. In addition, existing old growth trees are also protected and are generally scattered individual trees or occasional small, isolated patches. Legacy structures retained (green trees, snags, down wood) within harvest areas will continue to store carbon while the seedlings regenerating around these structures will accumulate carbon. Carbon is also stored in harvested wood products removed during the Annual Operation Plan implementation, as trees are converted to lumber for houses or other various products a percentage of this carbon is stored until it decays or is replaced.

In addition to these strategies, several silvicultural systems and prescriptions that take into consideration climate-informed forest principles and practices are being utilized to adapt the forest for climate change and mitigate the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These include but are not limited to: planting multiple tree species, utilizing varied planting spacings and densities, and utilizing thinning, longer rotations, and passive management in areas that align with the Forest Management Plan and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan goals and objectives.

Forest health strategies are also being addressed to restore areas impacted by insect pests and diseases to productive forests through the removal of susceptible species and use of site appropriate species. For areas impacted by insects and diseases such as Swiss needle cast, site specific reforestation plans are developed for planting and other young stand management treatments. Site specific prescriptions consider target species, aspect, elevation, soil types, Swiss needle cast risk where applicable, Phellinus weirii (laminated root rot) presence, required stocking guidelines, natural advanced regeneration, and the desired future condition of the stand. This will provide for a diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystem over time that will be more resilient to change.

The division is continually assessing additional practices to address climate change and carbon storage in an informed way that aligns with the Forest Management Plan and draft Habitat and Conservation Plan goals and objectives.

The district is participating in a research project around assisted species migration to assess using alternative species and seed from different seed zones to address climate concerns. As part of this research initiative, the Astoria District provided an area to plant a research plot in the Swagger Unit in 2025.

Harvest Operations within Habitat Conservation Areas

Habitat Conservation Areas are one of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies that are being implemented with this Annual Operations Plan. Habitat Conservation Areas were designed to conserve the highest quality existing covered species habitat and nearly all known occupied parts of the permit area; however, there are many areas of lower quality habitat in Habitat Conservation Areas, given the size of Habitat Conservation Areas and the disturbance and management history of the permit area. The overarching management objective for Habitat Conservation Areas is to increase the quality and quantity of habitat for terrestrial covered species. Stands that provide lower quality habitat or no habitat will be managed more frequently, in order to increase the quality and quantity of habitat. Over time terrestrial species habitat will improve in the Habitat Conservation Areas as more acres of lower quality habitat grow into higher quality habitat.

The majority of stand management that will occur in Habitat Conservation Areas will be in locations that currently provide limited habitat value for covered species. Managing stands in Habitat Conservation Areas that are lacking habitat characteristics for covered species will help promote development of them as the forest grows. These important characteristics include large trees and snags, multistoried and multi-species canopies, and large woody material. The primary purpose of these management actions is to selectively and strategically improve and accelerate development of such habitat characteristics for terrestrial covered species that rely on late-seral forests. At this time management within the Habitat Conservation Areas is limited to the first 30 years of the permit term for the Habitat Conservation Plan. Management within the Habitat Conservation Areas will primarily fall into one of four categories:

- **Healthy Conifer:** Typically management will include a variety of density management prescriptions in young healthy conifer forests to ensure that late-seral structure develops more quickly. Many of these stands have a high original planting density intended for timber production, and will persist as simple, closed canopy stands without a reduction in density and overall uniformity. To improve covered species habitat, these stands will receive thinning and patch cuts that will increase growth of dominant trees and allow for the initiation (or re-initiation) of understory tree and shrub species that will increase both vertical and horizontal heterogeneity, as well as species diversity, within the stand.

- **Swiss Needle Cast:** Another focus of management within Habitat Conservation Areas will be to reset stands that are stunted, due to Swiss needle cast, and will likely not become high quality habitat for covered species over the course of the permit term. By harvesting these stands early in the permit term, including regeneration harvests that remove significant portions of stands, ODF will be able to replant the stands with a species mix resistant to swiss needle cast that will grow into more suitable habitat during the permit term. Swiss needle cast regeneration prescriptions will include the retention of other conifer and hardwood species that are unaffected by the disease.

- **Conifer Restoration in Hardwood-dominant Stands:** Hardwood-dominant stands include those that have >50% hardwood species. Hardwood species have value for covered species and other wildlife; however, large expanses of red alder dominant stands with little conifer component are unlikely to develop into suitable or highly suitable habitat for marbled murrelets or red tree voles and are unlikely to support nesting northern spotted owls over the permit term. Therefore, there will be a focus on managing a portion of hardwood-dominant stands (primarily red alder) in the first 30 years of the permit term in order to reforest those stands with conifer species that will grow into higher quality habitat for covered species over time. In addition to the reforested conifer component, existing conifers will be retained where operationally feasible, and some hardwoods will also be retained in these stands during harvest.

Young Stand Management: Plantings will occur at lower densities and incorporate greater proportions of minor species (western red cedar, Sitka spruce, hemlock, true firs). Natural regeneration will be allowed to occur in some small patch cuts, and root-rot tolerant species will be planted where patch cuts are used to address infestations. If needed, alternative management plans will be filed where restocking conditions fail to meet Forest Practices Act standards. Intensity of manual release operations will be reduced to allow for some hardwood retention and development. These treatments are intended to promote complex early seral stand conditions that have greater potential to develop into high quality habitat for the covered terrestrial species than more intensive production-oriented treatments and prescriptions.

Table 2. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations **Inside and Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas.** All **acres are in net acres and volume is planned volume in million board feet.**

	2026 Annual Operations Plan							
	Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas				Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Areas			
	Partial Cut Acres	Partial Cut Volume	Clearcut Acres	Clearcut Volume	Partial Cut Acres	Partial Cut Volume	Clearcut Acres	Clearcut Volume
Primary	0	0	1,225	51.0	436	3.4	0	0
Alternate	217	1.6	149	7.7	2	<1	0	0

Harvest Outside of Habitat Conservation Areas

The 1,225 acres of regeneration harvest (primary sales) planned for Fiscal Year 2026 represents approximately one percent of the district. All of the regeneration harvest acres will be designed as clearcuts. There are no planned primary partial cut sales outside of Habitat Conservation Areas in Fiscal Year 26

There are 149 acres of regeneration harvest (alternate sales) that are planned for Fiscal Year 2026. There are 220 acres of partial cut harvest (alternate sales) that are planned for Fiscal Year 2026. Alternate timber sales may be sold as primary operations if issues arise on meeting the volume targets identified within the Implementation Plans.

Harvest Inside of Habitat Conservation Areas

The 436 acres of partial cut harvest (primary sales) is designed as a Healthy Conifer Thinning with the goal to thin out the dense trees, allowing more light to reach the forest floor. This will allow increased understory development and improve the layering of structure within the stand. Prescriptions may incorporate a mix of gap-cuts, areas of untreated stands, and variable density thinning prescriptions. Minor species will be evaluated to reserve based on the composition of the stand and the amount of diversity present. Residual tree selection will emphasize preserving the trees of good form and vigor with the largest diameter and height. These prescriptions will be developed in consultation with ODF biologists.

There are 2 acres of partial cut harvest (alternate sales) that are planned for within Habitat Conservation Areas in Fiscal Year 2026. These acres are designed as a Healthy Conifer Thinning. Alternate timber sales may be sold as primary operations if issues arise on meeting the volume targets identified within the Implementation Plans.

Refer to the attached Astoria District Financial Summary Table (Appendix A, Table A-1) and vicinity map (Appendix B) for more detail.

Harvest Operations within Terrestrial Anchor Sites and Aquatic Anchors

Supplemental Species of Concern Strategies provide for fish and wildlife species of concern. Two of these strategies are Terrestrial Anchors and Aquatic Anchors.

Terrestrial Anchor Sites

Terrestrial Anchor Sites areas are intended to benefit terrestrial wildlife species of concern, especially those associated with older forest or interior habitat conditions, sensitive to forest fragmentation, or do not readily disperse across younger forest conditions. Management within Terrestrial Anchor Sites is intended to be limited, to emulate natural small-scale disturbance patterns, and to minimize short- term negative impacts to habitat. All areas that were designated as Terrestrial Anchor Sites were designated for the development of complex structure in the Landscape Design.

The Terrestrial Anchors were adopted in 2011 and were revised during the 2025 Implementation Planning process to align with the Habitat Conservation Areas and the division species of concern policy. Great care has been given in selecting stands for harvest and developing prescriptions in these areas to ensure that these harvest activities achieve the goals of the Terrestrial Anchors. These sales were reviewed by ODF and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource Specialists. Table 3 shows there are no harvests planned within the Terrestrial Anchor Sites proposed for primary sales in the 2026 Annual Operations Plan and also shows the cumulative operations in Terrestrial Anchor Sites since the strategy was adopted.

Table 3. Summary of Harvest Operations within Terrestrial Anchor Sites (Acres and Percent)

Acres within Terrestrial Anchor Sites	Current Annual Operations Plan (Fiscal Year 2026)		Cumulative Harvest (Since Fiscal Year 2012)	
	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut
Terrestrial Anchor Site Basin				
Buster (3,942 ac)	0	0	1	626
% of Acres	0%	0%	<0.1%	15.9%
Plympton (3,540 ac)	0	0	3	56
% of Acres	0%	0%	<0.1%	1.6%
Sweethome (3,671 ac)	0	0	252	578
% of Acres	0%	0%	6.9%	15.7%
All Terrestrial Anchor Sites (11,153 ac)	**0**	**0**	**256**	**1,260**
% of Acres	**0%**	**0%**	**2.3%**	**11.3%**

Aquatic Anchors

Aquatic Anchors are geographically identified watersheds and are intended to benefit fish and amphibian species of concern. In these watersheds, additional riparian management strategies are applied to meet or exceed standards in the Forest Management Plan when conducting harvest operations. These watersheds will be managed in accordance with strategies in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan that prioritize salmonid recovery while balancing multiple purposes of state forest. The strategy is accomplished by minimizing the potential for adverse effects to aquatic and riparian habitats and maintaining key ecological functions and processes required to create and maintain functional habitat. These strategies do not preclude or limit harvest or road building activities outside of riparian conservation areas, but rather supplement current Forest Management Plan riparian buffer protections to further bolster the conservation goals in these watersheds.

Summary of Timber Harvest Operations by Basin

In the following section, the harvest operations planned for Fiscal Year 2026 will be summarized in the context of the 17 management basins on the Astoria District. Since the Forest Management Plan strategies provide standards for structural components such as green trees, snags, down wood as well as riparian protection, these are not discussed in the summary. Road strategies and standards are discussed in the Forest Roads Management section. Additional information regarding the harvest operations may be found within Table A-2, the Forest Resources Summary in Appendix A.

Table 5. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in net acres.

Basin	2026 Annual Operations Plan	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Astoria	0	0
Beneke	0	288
Buster	0	89
Crawford	0	0
Davis	0	120
Fishhawk	0	0
Gnat	0	326
Hamilton	0	0
Klaskanine	0	0
Lousignot	0	0
N. Fork Nehalem	0	0
Northrup	436	0
Plympton	0	0
Quartz	0	0
Sager	0	209
Scattered	0	0
Sweethome	0	193
Totals	**436**	**1,225**

Astoria Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Beneke Basin

Wild Gander: This operation consists of six clearcut units totaling 288 acres. The mixed conifer stands within the sale are between 32 and 90 years old. A 32 year old stand is included in Unit 5 to clean up a setting break. Units 2 and 3 were thinned in 2007. Unit 4 was thinned in 1999. Unit 5 was thinned in 2006. Unit 6 was thinned in 2004 and salvaged in 2008. The current condition of Units 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are a mix of Understory and Closed Single Canopy. The current condition of Unit 6 is Layered. The Desired Future Condition of the entire sale is non-complex. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be replanted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 1.4 miles (1.3 miles of rocked and 0.1 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 14.5 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.1 miles of unsurfaced road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

There is potential for stream enhancement within Unit 5. Additional reconnaissance will be needed during sale layout to determine the best candidates and locations.

Buster Basin

Ridge Walker: This operation consists of one clearcut unit totaling 89 acres. The mixed conifer stand within the sale is 84 years old. The current condition of Unit 1 is Understory, with a Desired Future Condition of non-complex. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be replanted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 0.3 miles of unsurfaced spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 5.1 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale.

Scout Walker (Alternate): This operation consists of three clearcut units totaling 149 acres. Approximately 58 acres of this sale (Unit 1) falls within the Sager Basin with the remaining 93 acres falling within the Buster Basin. The mixed conifer stands within the sale are between 39 and 88 years old. The 39 year old stand is being harvested to clean up a setting break. The current condition of Units 1 and 2 is Understory and Unit 3 is Layered, with a Desired Future Condition of non-complex. Following the completion of harvest, the unit will be replanted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 0.8 miles (0.7 miles of rocked and 0.1 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 8.4 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.1 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

Crawford Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Davis Basin

Slough Hill: This operation consists of one clearcut unit totaling 120 acres. The mixed conifer stands within this sale are between 35 and 55 years old. Portions of this timber sale were thinned in 2012. The current condition is a mix of Understory and Closed Single Canopy. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the units will be planted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 1.1 (0.6 miles of rocked and 0.5 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 2.3 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.5 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

All sale access roads are behind a locked gate. The gate is located on Fertile Valley Road at the Junction of Brownsmead Hill Road.

Fishhawk Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Gnat Basin

Erock: This operation consists of two clearcut units totaling 134 acres. The mixed conifer stands within this sale are between 94 and 99 years old. The units were thinned in 2003 and portion were salvage logged in 2008. The current condition of Unit 1 is Layered and Unit 2 is Older Forest Structure. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the units will be planted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 0.2 miles of rocked spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 4.7 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement and/or maintenance in conjunction with this sale.

A new road will be constructed across an adjacent landowner, an easement has already been obtained.

All sale access roads are behind a gate that may be locked depending on vandalism activity.

Middle Big Noise: This operation consists of two clearcut units totaling 192 acres. Unit 1 is a mixed conifer stand that ranges from 41 to 53 years old and Unit 2 is a mixed conifer stand of 95 years old. Both Units were commercially thinned in 2011. The current condition of Unit 1 is Understory and Unit 2 is primarily Layered with six acres of Understory. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the units will be planted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

No new road construction needed for harvest. Approximately 2.2 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement and/or maintenance in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.4 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

All sale access roads may be behind locked gates depending on vandalism.

There is potential for stream enhancement on this sale. Additional reconnaissance will be needed during sale layout to determine the best candidates and locations.

Hamilton Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Klaskanine Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Louisignot Basin

Vesper Road Thin (Alternate): This operation consists of two partial cut units totaling 215 acres. The mixed conifer stands within this sale are between 37 and 38 years old. The current condition of the stands are Understory. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands.

Approximately two acres of Unit 2 is within the Habitat Conservation Area.

Approximately 0.3 (0.1 miles of rocked and 0.2 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 5.8 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.2 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

North Fork Nehalem Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Northrup Basin

Seven Cow Thin: This operation consists of seven partial cut units totaling 432 acres. The mixed conifer stands within this sale are between 35 and 42 years old. The current condition of the stands are Understory. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands.

All Units are within the Habitat Conservation Area.

Approximately 2.5 (1.0 miles of rocked and 1.5 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 13.8 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 1.5 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

Plympton Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Quartz Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Sager Basin

Sager: This operation consists of three clearcut units totaling 209 acres. The mixed conifer stands within this sale are between 34 and 124 years old. The western portion of Unit 1 was thinned in 1972 and 2003 and the eastern portion in 2011. Unit 2 was thinned in 1976 and in 2006. The western portion of Unit 3 was thinned in 2009, the eastern portion in 2013, and the northern portion in 2017. The current condition of the stands is as follows: 105 acres of Understory, 53 acres of Layered, and 49 acres of Older Forest Structure. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the units will be planted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 0.4 (0.3 miles of rocked and 0.1 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 5.9 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.2 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

Scout Walker: A portion of Scout Walker lies within the Buster basin. See sale description under the Buster Basin.

Scattered Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for Fiscal Year 2026.

Sweethome Basin

Sweet Fry: This operation consists of three clearcut units totaling 193 acres. The mixed conifer stands within this sale are between 37 and 93 years old. Unit 2 was thinned in 2013. The current condition of the stands is primarily Understory with approximately 11 acres of Closed Single Canopy and two acres of Regeneration. The units have a Desired Future Condition of non-complex stands. Following the completion of harvest, the units will be planted with a mixture of species to be determined closer to the time of reforestation.

Approximately 0.4 (0.3 miles of rocked and 0.1 miles of unsurfaced) of spur road will be constructed to facilitate harvest. Approximately 11.7 miles of road will have improvement, surface rock replacement, or maintenance performed in conjunction with this sale. Approximately 0.1 miles of road will be blocked in conjunction with this sale.

There is potential for stream enhancement within Unit 3. Additional reconnaissance will be needed during sale layout to determine the best candidates and locations.

Forest Roads Management

Overview

The State Forest road network provides access for forest management activities, fire suppression, and recreation. Visions, guiding principles, and goals for managing the road network are discussed in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (April 2010) and the State Forest Roads Manual (September 2006). The State Forest Roads Manual also provides standards and guidance for all road management activities and definitions, road classifications and other terms.

The roadwork in this Annual Operations Plan is related to constructing spur roads and for improving haul routes for the Fiscal Year 2026 timber sales. This section describes the types of road management activities that will occur in Fiscal Year 2026 and the attached Forest Roads Summary Table (Appendix A, Table A-3) describes the anticipated total amounts.

Road Construction

The District evaluates each timber sale and strives to build the minimum number of roads required, except where the District has identified road systems that can be moved away from existing streams to mitigate hydrological issues. This may result in more road miles, but relocating roads away from the stream network is beneficial for watershed processes. The District tries to limit the number of stream crossings where possible when building new roads. Where stream crossings are unavoidable, new and replacement stream crossings will be designed to meet National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (2022) passage criteria to maintain passage for covered fish species where applicable and follow best management practices outlined in the State Forest Roads Manual. All planned road construction is reviewed by the Geotechnical specialist to ensure that new roads are located in stable locations to provide the best protection to natural resources while meeting the objective of the road. Discussions are held regarding the long-term use of the road by the District staff for reforestation and future management, and whether a road needs to be surfaced or if it can be left unsurfaced. Financial costs of the construction and long-term maintenance are considered as well as potential impact to sale operations, anticipated closures related to weather, and long-term impact to wildlife and recreation.

Over time minimal roads will be built within Habitat Conservation Areas and rarely within Riparian Conservation Areas. The intent is to be very deliberate when building roads in these locations, to ensure that other options were reviewed, that the planned road location is required and that other alternatives were not operationally or economically feasible.

Road Improvement

Road improvement projects will use ODF road inventory protocols to assess existing road drainage, stability, and vegetation conditions, and to aid in the development of transportation system improvement plans. Road Improvement activities will follow the guidance of the State Forest Roads Manual, State Forest Stewardship Agreement, and Chapter 4 of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Road improvement is generally accomplished through timber sale or Work Order Contracts. The majority of this improvement work will be performed on collector and spur roads and will consist of installing or replacing existing culverts and bridges, ditchline or cutbank improvements, or sidecast pull back and stabilization efforts.

Road Maintenance

Roads will be maintained as necessary to minimize the impact on natural resources, protect water quality and protect the investment made to the road infrastructure. Road maintenance activities will follow the guidance of the State Forest Roads Manual, State Forest Stewardship Agreement, and Chapter 4 of the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Road maintenance can be accomplished through timber sale contracts, Work Order Contracts, or the State Forests road crew. Emergency maintenance can also be accomplished by directly hiring contractors within a certain threshold. Maintenance is focused on ensuring proper drainage to prevent sediment from entering streams. Collector roads, and roads in active sale areas, need and get the most maintenance. District personnel respond to heavy storms and thaw periods by performing road inspections, additional maintenance, and where necessary, stopping heavy truck use during periods when roads cannot handle traffic without damage to the water quality or the road asset.

Surface rock replacement is also considered maintenance. It is defined as adding additional surface rock to an already surfaced road to replace the rock worn down from road use. The intent of surface rock replacement is to bring the road back up to the original design standards. Rock wear details can be found in the appendices of the State Forest Roads Manual.

Road Vacating

Roads may be vacated for a variety of reasons such as changing access needs, reducing maintenance costs, and/or to help meet objectives for aquatics, fish and amphibians, wildlife, recreation or other forest resources. Road vacating projects reduce potential impacts to the landscape and hydrologically disconnect the drainage from the stream system. This leaves them in a condition where road-related damage to the waters of the State is unlikely. When a road is vacated and taken off the active road network, erosion prevention work will be performed so that continued maintenance is not necessary. This includes but is not limited to removing sidecast material, stream crossings, culverts, cross drains and fills; installing maintenance free drainage, excavating unstable road and landing fills; treating ditch and road surfaces to disperse runoff and prevent surface erosion; and revegetating exposed soils. Segments of a road that have near-natural levels of risk for sediment delivery can be left intact and receive minimal road drainage improvements.

Road Access Management

State Forests are managed to support public access while providing for community safety, environmental benefits, protection of state and private assets, and wildfire prevention. Following timber harvest, roads are evaluated for their public access benefits and costs. Some roads are closed and vacated to reduce the maintenance costs and to minimize impacts to the environment. These areas remain open for walk-in use. The Department retains the option of gating roads if vandalism, neighbor concerns, or excessive road damage from public use becomes a problem in particular areas. The public may still access these areas on foot, bicycle or horseback.

Hydrologic Connectivity

Hydrological connectivity surveys are performed on haul routes during sale layout. The intent of these surveys is to determine what portions of the road and ditchlines are directly connected to streams and determine if there are ways to minimize or mitigate the connection distances. ODF prioritizes road improvement projects that address hydrologic connectivity and culvert

replacements that are barriers to fish migration on active or planned haul routes and sites of opportunity near active or planned haul routes. Road improvement and maintenance investments are made to support forest operations, protect existing road infrastructure and water quality, and provide for safety improvements. ODF also closely monitors road conditions on active haul routes and performs additional patrols and assessments during and after inclement weather events. The District will continue conducting hydrologic connectivity surveys and mitigating items discovered during the process.

Management of Rock Source/Supply

The District provides durable rock for in-sale spurs and haul routes, which allows for year-round harvest opportunities. Rock quarry development, rock crushing, and/or purchasing rock is necessary to provide sufficient quantities of the road rock for planned road construction, road improvement, and road maintenance activities.

Quarry developments are planned for the following operations; however, these plans are subject to change as timber sale project work is laid out:

- Wild Bill – 13,000 cubic yards
- Northrup Ridge – 3,000 cubic yards

Annually, the rock that the District requires for road maintenance varies greatly depending on actual volume hauled, time of year, time of road construction, rock durability, and multiple other factors. The rock required is generally supplied from State-owned stockpiles. The District will continue to explore new rock sources and further development of existing rock quarries in Fiscal Year 2026.

Work Order Contracts

Road maintenance and improvement projects not associated with a timber sale will be primarily facilitated through Work Order Contracts. This process uses the same protocols and guidance outlined in the road improvement and maintenance sections but allows the department to be efficient in accomplishing this work and to prepare for future projects. The work associated with these contracts can include bridge design, fish culvert installation, road brushing, road maintenance and repair, or repairing/replacing gates.

Other Planned Road Projects to be completed by Work Order Contract in the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan:

- Roadside Spraying
- Walker Ridge/Sager Brushing

Roadside Vegetation Management

Roadside vegetation management protects the investment in roads by preventing damage from unchecked vegetation growth, helps to maintain a safe driving environment by maintaining clear sight distance, controls noxious weeds, and reduces fire hazards. Roadside vegetation will be controlled manually, mechanically or chemically where necessary. The method used will depend on the characteristics of the vegetation and its location. During the spring of 2025, roadside

vegetation surveys will be conducted to determine roadside vegetation management treatment needs for Fiscal Year 2026.

Land Surveying

Every year surveying needs are analyzed and planned to be kept at a minimum level while ensuring property lines and corners are clearly marked. Survey work may be accomplished through service contracts with licensed professional land surveyors, or cost sharing with adjacent landowners. Land surveying may be necessary on the following sales:

- Vesper Road Thin (1.0 miles)

Young Stand Management

The State Forest strategy is to use a range of silvicultural tools to establish and maintain diverse stands of well-adapted natural species throughout the landscape to meet the objectives and goals in the Forest Management Plan and District Implementation Plan. These tools include site preparation, planting, tree protection, vegetation management, pre-commercial thinning, early commercial thinning and interplanting or replanting. Each practice must be considered and prescribed for individual stands on a site-specific basis.

This section describes the types of reforestation and young stand management activities that will occur in Fiscal Year 2026 and the attached Young Stand Management Table (Appendix A, Table A-4) describes the anticipated total amounts. The location and amount (acres) of these activities are estimates based on plans, information and conditions as known at this point in time. The type, amount and specific stand management prescriptions will be further adjusted based on when existing harvest units are completed and on updated assessments and surveys that will occur during and after the 2024 growing season.

Reforestation activities will be completed by using experienced contractors. A portion of the activities will be completed by utilizing crews from South Fork Camp. These crews work on activities such as planting, inter-planting, tree protection, mechanical hand release, and noxious weed control.

Seedlings / Nurseries

In order to meet the goals of the Forest Management Plan, the State Forests Program requires tree seedlings that are physiologically healthy and best suited for the planting sites. A wide variety of seedlings is grown at forest nurseries throughout the Pacific Northwest to meet the reforestation needs. Seedlings are grown in three different stock types: 1) plug seedlings or one-year-old container grown seedlings, 2) plug-1's which are grown one year in a container followed by a second year in a bare root bed, and 3) straight bare root seedlings grown from seed in a bare root bed and then transplanted to a lower stocking bare root bed. The budget accounts for a string of growing costs over several years rather than just those costs of the trees being grown and planted in the winter. The budget for seedlings includes portions of the costs for growing seedlings for three planting years. Additionally, there are costs associated with the seed that is used for growing the seedlings, estimated transportation costs and various costs associated with packaging and freezer and/or cooler storage. The individual species mixture and stock type used for a particular reforestation unit is determined after the final inventory from the forest nursery and varies by District.

Site Preparation

Site preparation is any planned measure to prepare a site to allow for favorable growing conditions for newly planted seedlings. More than one of these techniques may be used for any given site based on the attributes and reforestation prescription for the site. The three main site preparation techniques are mechanical, chemical and slash burning.

1) Slash Burning: Slash burning can be accomplished by broadcast burning the entire unit or burning piles that result from mechanical site preparation.

2) Mechanical: Mechanical site preparation is the use of mechanized equipment to rearrange or alter forest slash and/or disturb the forest surface layer and vegetation to create seedbeds or planting spots. Planting spots are created in a fairly even distribution. Dense slash concentrations created during timber harvest may be mechanically piled as part of the timber sale contract.

3) Chemical: Chemical site preparation involves the application of herbicides to control competing vegetation before planting or natural regeneration and during the early stages of seedling establishment. Applications occur by two primary methods: aerially by helicopter or ground based with the use of backpack application equipment. The objective is to control brush species to allow stand establishment and maintain 2-3 years free of significant competing vegetation. The actual site preparation plan will be prepared in late spring when harvest unit availability and brush development is better known.

Planting

Tree planting operations are conducted for various reasons. These include meeting Forest Practices Laws, quickly establishing a new stand of trees after timber harvesting, and increasing species diversity in the area and across the landscape. Planting is comprised of matching the appropriate species and stock type to the planting site. Forest health strategies are addressed on a site specific basis when the planting plan is developed. Site specific prescriptions consider target species, aspect, elevation, soil types, Swiss needle cast risk where applicable, *Phellinus weirii* (laminated root rot) presence, required stocking guidelines, natural advanced regeneration, and the desired future condition of the stand. To accomplish this, a mixture of species is planted to provide for a healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystem over time and to be more resilient to climate change. The following are different types of planting.

1) Initial Planting (Regeneration harvest units): Planting activities establish the desired species and stocking levels to meet the goals in the Forest Management Plan and Forest Practices Laws. Planted seedlings will be well suited and adapted to the reforestation site and where appropriate, a mixture of species may be planted to increase diversity on the landscape.

2) Interplanting: Interplanting may occur when stocking levels fall below or are at risk of falling below Forest Practices Act minimums. In certain instances, interplanting will occur to increase stocking on high quality sites to fully capture the site. In other areas, lower stocking will be acceptable, as it will provide high-quality, early-seral habitat while still meeting Forest Practices Act requirements.

3) Underplanting: This type of planting is occasionally conducted after thinning in order to introduce both species diversity and an additional future layer of structure into a stand.

4) Natural Regeneration: Units or portions of units are assessed prior to planting. Natural regeneration is considered primarily in western hemlock stands that have been salvaged from wind storms, where small gaps and holes less than two acres have been created in partial cut units, and in unit rock outcrops or cliffs. Natural regeneration of red alder and other minor species is used to provide diversity in all harvest units.

Tree Protection

Animal damage on newly planted seedlings reduces their overall size, health and vigor. Extensive damage can lead to interplanting, may extend the time to achieve free-to-grow status as defined by the Forest Practices Act and prevent meeting Forest Management Plan goals. Deer and elk, as well as mountain beaver, can heavily damage young seedlings. Various tree protection strategies are applied to help re-establish trees in areas with high concentrations of these species. Most commonly, various types of physical barriers (bud caps, vexar tubes, etc.) help prevent damage from big game. Direct control includes trapping mountain beaver in highly-populated areas prior to planting. This helps prevent damage to newly-planted seedlings.

Vegetation Management – Release Treatments

Vegetation management is done to reduce light, soil moisture or nutrient competition from undesirable vegetation in a young stand of trees to improve survival and growth. It can also be used to alter tree species composition under pressure from insect and disease and favor species that are tolerant or resistant to the threat. Vegetation management may be required to meet forest practices reforestation stocking requirements, the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan and the District Implementation Plan. There are two types of vegetation management, chemical and manual release treatments. They are described below.

Chemical Release: Chemical release treatments involve the application of herbicides to control undesirable vegetation. Typical application methods are broadcast, directed spray, and hack-and-squirt. Broadcast application treatments are sprayed over the top of seedlings and undesirable vegetation using either aerial or backpack methods. Directed spray applications are made with a backpack and target individual plants. This method is often used to remove invasive species such as Scotch broom from young stands. Hack-and-squirt involves basal or stem injection of chemicals. This method is typically applied to hardwoods to release conifers from hardwood competition.

Manual Release: Manual release can include cutting down of noxious weeds or hardwoods. Hardwood release is used when ingrowth of hardwoods, mainly red alder in the northwest, threaten to change the stand from conifer dominant to hardwood dominant. In this treatment, the majority of hardwoods are removed using chainsaws leaving all of the conifer trees. This differs from Pre-Commercial Thinning (described below) in the fact that conifer spacing and species are not manipulated. While hardwoods are important on the landscape and some are retained, long-term conifer production is the goal for many stands across the district.

Pre-Commercial Thinning

Pre-Commercial Thinning is a silviculture activity used to manipulate the density, structure or species composition of overstocked young forest stands. Generally, the purpose of a Pre-Commercial Thinning operation is to release the most vigorous growing trees so they can maintain their growth. Pre-Commercial Thinning is normally conducted in a stand between

the ages of 13 and 17 years old. In areas of disease such as Swiss needle cast or *Phellinus weirii*, Pre-Commercial Thinning can be used to favor species other than impacted Douglas-fir trees in the residual stand. For Fiscal Year 2026 the Astoria District has identified approximately 200 acres of Pre-Commercial Thinning. This work is contingent on receiving potential grant dollars to complete the work. There may be some projects that are pursued outside of grant dollars as stands are identified.

Early Commercial Thinning

The primary objective of an Early Commercial Thin operation is to improve stand growth while capturing volume that would be lost due to natural mortality. This process could be viewed as revenue neutral or as a slight revenue generating activity based on markets at the time of the operation. Initial results have generated 45-55 tons of fiber per acre with an average return of $85 per acre, prior to disbursement to the County. During times of a depressed timber market the operation could actually be revenue negative. However, along with improving the stocking and quality of the stand another benefit of these operations could be a reduction in the amount of pre-commercial thinning needed; which is currently a substantial cost to ODF. There is currently no Early Commercial Thinning planned for the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operation Plan.

Stocking Surveys

The Reforestation Unit has the responsibility of ensuring that the goals of the Forest Management Plan are met. Stocking surveys is one tool to ensure the stands are on track for the desired future condition. The surveys are done in order to check initial seedling survival at a time when the seedlings are vulnerable and there is still time to remedy problems, by using interplanting and animal damage control measures as examples. In addition, stocking surveys are conducted in order to assess free-to-grow status and to get baseline data on the stand for future management planning, for example evaluating release treatments and pre-commercial thinning candidates.

Invasive Species

Most noxious weeds or invasive plants are found along roads and have spread into adjacent stands. The main sources for the weed introduction into the forest are vehicle tires, equipment moved into and out of district, and where soil disturbance occurs. 100% weed-free grass seed and certified weed-free straw used for mulch is required for project work on roads. Equipment washing is required in timber sale contracts to prevent the introduction of weed seed from other sites. It is also required that weed-free hay is used for feeding stock on State Forest lands.

Reforestation continues to work with Marketing, Forest Roads, and Recreation personnel to identify appropriate steps each unit can take to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Knotweed, Scotch broom, orange hawkweed, yellow flag iris, garlic mustard, and false brome are the primary species known to exist in the District. Active control measures are being planned and prioritized for roadside, in-unit, and trail treatment.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

Recreation use has been taking place in the Clatsop State Forest for more than 70 years and has been managed to varying degrees. Currently the direction for management of recreation flows from the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (2010).

Recreation use includes hunting, fishing, target shooting, Off-Highway Vehicle riding, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, mushroom picking, sight-seeing, picnicking, boating, swimming, and camping. Recreation use takes place in developed sites and in dispersed sites across state forest land. Use levels for all activities are expected to increase.

Dispersed site activities are expected to continue in Fiscal Year 2026 and will require varying degrees of recreation use management and district staff attention. Dispersed use sites will be monitored, maintained, and improved or closed as resources allow to meet safety, sanitation, and resource protection objectives.

The Fiscal Year 2026 plan focuses on maintaining current trails, facilities, and opportunities by maintaining the existing infrastructure, providing for public safety and sanitation, and mitigating impact to natural resources. The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will also focus on internal business processes to improve internal integration with other state forest business, improve spatial data organization, standardize recreation infrastructure, improve information delivery to the public, and align operational activities with the guidelines and requirements identified in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan.

Facilities (Campgrounds, Viewpoints, Trailheads, etc.)

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program operates and maintains the following developed facilities in the Astoria District:

- 5 Campgrounds
- 1 Off-Highway Vehicle staging and day-use area
- 6 Designated dispersed campsites
- 2 Interpretive sites
- 7 Trailheads

Table 6. Facility Projects

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Projects planned for Fiscal Year 26

Facility Maintenance

Maintenance of existing facilities remains the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Programs' highest priority. Facilities will be maintained as necessary to protect investment, address developing resource and safety issues, and to protect water quality.

Facility maintenance work includes the completion of facility condition assessments on all facility infrastructure, prioritization of maintenance needs, development of maintenance plans, and completion of maintenance work identified. Standard facility maintenance work includes performing maintenance activities on restrooms, trash and garbage services, facility access roads and trails, facility infrastructure (picnic tables, fire pits, potable water wells, grey water disposal areas, tent pads, wood storage sheds, picnic shelters, parking areas, etc.), sign and information board infrastructure, and vegetation management.

Heavy facility maintenance work such as addressing landslides, sinkholes, flood damage, and downed trees which result from winter storms will be incorporated into facility maintenance plans and conducted as needed.

Facility maintenance needs vary year to year based on factors such as volume of use and seasonal weather conditions.

Motorized (Off-Highway Vehicle) Trails

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will continue to place emphasis on the maintenance and upgrade of existing trails. Upgrades will be focused on improving trail system connectivity and diversity, reducing user conflict, addressing user safety, natural resource protection, recreational infrastructure investment protection, improving sustainability, and reducing maintenance workload.

To support Off-Highway Vehicle Program management, Oregon Department of Forestry receives All-Terrain Vehicle Fund dollars from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to support personnel and associated service and supply costs.

Fiscal Year 2026 Motorized trail projects on the Astoria District are identified and described in the following table (Table 7).

Table 7. Motorized Trail Projects

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
Construction	Plympton Creek West Trail Re-route	Fiscal Year 2026	Off-Highway Vehicle Program Staff	Construction- Trail re-route construction and trail vacation

Non-motorized Trails

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will continue to place emphasis on maintenance, and upgrade of existing trails. Upgrades will be focused on improving trail system connectivity and diversity, reducing user conflict, addressing user safety, natural resource

protection, recreational infrastructure investment protection, improving sustainability, and reducing maintenance workload.

Fiscal Year 2026 non-motorized trail projects on the Astoria District are identified and described in the following table (Table 8).

Table 8. Non-Motorized Trail Projects

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Projects planned for Fiscal Year 26

Trail Maintenance (Motorized and Non-motorized)

Maintenance of existing trails remains the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Programs' highest trail program priority. Trails will be maintained as necessary to protect investment, address developing resource and safety issues, and to protect water quality.

Trail maintenance work includes the completion of trail condition assessments on all trails and trail infrastructure, prioritization of maintenance needs, development of maintenance plans, and completion of maintenance work identified. Standard trail maintenance work includes activities such as cleaning water bars and rolling dips, cleaning out culverts, performing trail tread repair work, cleaning trail bridges, clearing downed trees, vegetation management, sign infrastructure maintenance, and trail infrastructure repair or replacement.

Heavy trail maintenance work such as addressing landslides, sinkholes, flood damage, and downed trees which results from winter storms will be incorporated into trail maintenance plans and conducted as needed.

Trail maintenance needs vary year to year based on factors such as volume of use and seasonal weather conditions.

Fiscal Year 2026 trail maintenance projects on the Astoria District are identified and described in the following table (Table 9).

Table 9. Trail Maintenance Projects

Project Type	Project Name	Project Status	Work Resources	Project Description
Construction	Plympton Creek West Trail Bridge Replacement	Fiscal Year 2026	Off-Highway Vehicle Program Staff	Trail Bridge Replacement on motorized trail.

Hydrologic Connectivity

Hydrological connectivity surveys will be performed on trails during trail maintenance and condition assessments. The intent of these surveys is to determine what portions of the trails are

directly connected to streams and determine if there are ways to minimize or mitigate the connection distances. The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program prioritizes trail improvement projects that address hydrologic connectivity. Trail maintenance investments will be made to support recreational opportunities, protect existing trail infrastructure, protect water quality, and provide for public safety improvements.

Timber Sale and Recreation Resource Interactions

As a working forest it is inevitable that as we plan timber harvest activity there will be interaction with recreational infrastructure. The Marketing, Roads, and Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program staff collaborate when sale and recreation resource interactions occur and develop actions to minimize impact to recreational infrastructure and address natural resource impact when trails do not meet sustainability or resource protection goals.

Details have been added to Pre-Operation Reports for each timber sale that has nearby recreational resources to detail what actions are planned for the recreational resource.

Timber sales may extend for several years depending on the flow of operations. The table below lists the planned 2026 Fiscal Year timber sales that will impact recreation resources.

Table 10. Timber Sale & Recreation Resource Interactions

Project Type	Timber Sale Name	Trail Name	Project Description
Planning	Seven Cow Thin	Northrup Creek Horse Trail	Trails impacted by timber sale activity will be temporarily closed due to public safety concerns and re-opened once harvest activity is completed and trail repairs are completed if necessary. See timber sale pre-op reports for additional information.

Volunteer Program and Partnerships

Volunteers contribute labor, supplies, and expertise to the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program. Volunteers have partnered with ODF to construct new trails, maintain infrastructure, and preserve natural resources.

Volunteer activities include.

- Camp Host Program at Spruce Run and Northrup Horse Camp Campgrounds
- Non-profit and user group led trail maintenance and construction work parties facilitated through external partnership agreements.

In Fiscal Year 2026, activities associated with the volunteer program will include the recruitment, selection, and management of campground hosts, planning and management of volunteer trail maintenance and development work, and special volunteer projects.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program continues to partner with local recreation providers and volunteers to maintain working relationships and accomplish work. The program will continue to look for opportunities to develop new partnerships and to enhance existing partnerships that will increase our collective capacity to meet program and project goals and objectives.

Grants

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will be exploring applying for grants to support a variety of infrastructure projects across state forest land.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program will also be partnering with clubs and organizations that will be submitting grant applications to advance program work in Northwest Oregon Area.

Other Integrated Forest Management Projects

Aquatic & Riparian Management

All fish bearing streams found in State Forests are subject to the Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas as outlined in Appendix J found in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan (2010). An objective of State Forests' aquatic resources is to maintain, enhance, and restore quality fish habitat. This is achieved primarily through riparian buffer strategies specific to the aquatic resource characteristics such as presence of fish, size, and flow duration. The goal of all riparian management prescriptions is to obtain mature forest conditions (e.g., development of the natural community appropriate for that site) as expediently as possible. Aquatic Anchors have been established on watersheds in the District in which additional aquatic conservation measures are applied when regeneration harvesting.

Several strategies, described in the Forest Management Plan, dictate protection measures designed to protect, maintain, and restore aquatic and riparian functions. These strategies are employed during harvest activities and include but are not limited to: leave trees adjacent to streams to protect stream temperature, provide nutrients, protect stream banks, and eventually provide wood to improve fish habitat. Best management practices for road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance minimize impacts to water quality.

In addition to the strategies detailed in the Forest Management Plan all goals and strategies identified within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan will be followed for Fiscal Year 2026 timber sales. These goals and strategies at times will overlap with those within the management plan. Final stream protection configurations will be determined during sale layout to ensure compliance with Forest Management Plan and draft Habitat Conservation Plan strategies.

Threatened and Endangered Fish Species: Federally Threatened Salmon and Steelhead listed species with Critical Habitat Designations found within the District include Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, Lower Columbia River Coho, Columbia River Chum, and Lower Columbia River Chinook.

Fish Presence Surveys: Streams are classified based on the presence of certain fish species and suitable habitat. A Type F stream represents a stream that is inhabited at any time of the year by anadromous or game fish species or fish that are listed as threatened or endangered species under the federal or state endangered species acts. A Type N stream represents a stream that is not occupied at any time of the year by anadromous or game fish species. Traditionally, fish use determinations were made primarily utilizing electrofishing but since 2007, Forest Practices rules were revised to include a physical habitat survey as an approved method for classifying fish use. As of July 1, 2023, a fish distribution model was approved for regulatory purposes to classify streams for fish use. State Forest staff can use the modelled approach for classifying streams to designate the appropriate riparian protection measures and can perform a field survey following approved

ODFW protocols and workflows to verify and/or correct the modeled fish distribution where discrepancies are discovered.

Flow Permanence Surveys: Streams are classified based on flow duration. A perennial stream represents a stream that has flowing surface water year-round during a typical water year. A seasonal stream represents a stream that does not have flowing surface water year-round and may dry up completely during a typical water year. Flow permanence determinations have been made using a variety of protocols and techniques over the years. As of July 1, 2023, a flow permanence field protocol was approved for regulatory purposes to classify streams for flow duration. State Forest staff are required to complete an operational field survey following approved ODFW protocols and workflows for classifying streams to designate the appropriate riparian protection measures. The requirement of completing an operational field survey will end once there is an approved flow duration model sufficient for regulatory purposes. Once an approved flow duration model is available, State Forest staff can use the modelled approach for classifying streams and can perform a field survey following ODFW protocols and workflows to verify and/or correct the modeled flow duration where discrepancies are discovered.

Restoration Goals and Identification Process*:* The overarching principles for fish habitat restoration are described in the Forest Management Plan. There are stream enhancement opportunities identified in association with the sales in this Annual Operations Plan. Before determining if these potential projects will go into a full planning process, more field review is needed. The ODF Aquatic and Riparian Specialist will be consulted to help identify these candidates and may consult with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish biologists as needed.

Potential Stream Projects are associated with the following Timber Sales:

- Middle Big Noise
- Sweet Fry
- Wild Gander

Other Planned Projects to improve aquatic areas within the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan:

- Continue conducting hydrologic connectivity surveys and mitigating items discovered during this process.

Restoration accomplishments are reported to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board using the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory electronic filing process and reported by ODF annually in our report to the counties, board of forestry, and Division of State Lands.

Personnel on the Astoria District actively participate on the Upper and Lower Nehalem Watershed Councils and the District Operations Coordinator is a member of the North Coast Watershed Association board of directors.

Land Exchange

The District may commence a land exchange in Fiscal Year 2026 if budget and staffing assistance is available and if willing exchange partners come forward. These would only be high priority land exchanges and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Law enforcement on the district will be budgeted for and will be provided by a seasonal law enforcement officer from Clatsop County Sherriff's Office during the heavy recreation use season if a candidate is available.

Firewood Cutting Program

The primary objective of the District Firewood Cutting Program is to provide a source of firewood from Sate Forests to the public for personal use. The permit fee for personal firewood cutting is $20 for two cords. Permits are issued for a period of three weeks. Historically firewood cutting has only been allowed outside the months of fire season. The District typically sells 700-1,000 woodcutting permits each year.

Non-Timber Forest Products

The Astoria District currently administers a Special Forest Products program which consists of issuing Commercial Use Permits to individuals who wish to collect larger quantities of various forest products with the intent for the products to be re-sold. There is a fee charged to individuals for a Commercial Use Permit, which is based on the type of forest product and quantity. Special Forest Products include: mushrooms, salal, moss, and ferns. Additionally, the public has the ability to gather smaller quantities of these forest products, free of charge, for personal use. The District typically sells 150-200 special forest products permits each year.

Grants

ODF received funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant. As part of this grant, pre-commercial thinning and invasive weed treatments will be accomplished to increase the health, vigor and resiliency of selected young stands in the State Forests. A tool has been developed to help prioritize the backlog of stands across all State Forest lands that would benefit from this thinning. Areas to be included in this grant funded work will be identified once the tool is finished this fall. As such, any pre-commercially thinning acres resulting from this grant are reflected in the district Summary Table A-4 in Grant Funded Activities if applicable. Pre-commercially thinning on identified areas may start as soon as May 2025. The Invasive weed treatments portion of the grant is not finalized yet, as such any invasive weed treatment resulting from this grant are not reflected in the district Summary Table A-4.

Planning

Below are the significant district-level planning projects currently scheduled for commencement, completion, or both in Fiscal Year 2026.

Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Resources

All of the operations have been reviewed against the State Historic Preservation Office and General Land Office databases for potential impact to cultural resources. All of the operations have been shared with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

Forest Inventory

The State Forests Division is developing a lidar-based inventory that will replace Stand Level Inventory when completed. Lidar data was collected in 2020 for most ODF lands in the Northwest Oregon Area. Contract crews collected United States Forest Service Forest Inventory Assessment plots in 2021. The State Forest Division's Inventory Program is in the process of developing a raster-based estimate of forest biometrics across most of its ownership.

Wildlife Surveys

Northern Spotted Owl Surveys

For the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan, the District will continue the northern spotted owl survey program, in order to comply with federal and state Endangered Species Acts and to contribute to Forest Management Plan goals. Survey requirements are determined in accordance with *ODF Northern Spotted Owl Operational Policies,* November 2017. If ODF obtains a Habitat Conservation Plan these policies will be re-evaluated.

Marbled Murrelet Surveys

In Fiscal Year 2026, the District will continue its marbled murrelet survey program in order to comply with Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and to contribute to Forest Management Plan goals. Survey requirements are determined in accordance with ODF policy, guidance, and survey protocols. If ODF obtains a Habitat Conservation Plan these policies will be re-evaluated.

Threatened and Endangered Plants

The District will continue to screen harvest operations against the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center database and other known locations on the District to identify potential conflicts with plant species listed in the District Implementation Plan.

Species of Concern Wildlife

The District will continue to screen harvest operations against several wildlife databases to identify potential conflicts with Species of Concern listed in the District 2025 Implementation Plan. In 2023, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife released a new mapping tool that identifies Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas that include recommendations to facilitate wildlife movement. ODF and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will work together to determine how these mapped areas will be incorporated into the upcoming long-range planning processes.

Research and Monitoring

Districts will assist in a variety of research and monitoring projects in Fiscal Year 2026. Examples include:
ODF will support beaver activity monitoring this fall for targeted stream reaches in the District that overlap the Upper Nehalem Headwaters Beaver Emphasis Area. This work supports the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 3-Year Beaver Action Plan, which will be completed in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Astoria District will continue monitoring the western hemlock and Douglas-fir progeny sites off of Wageland road. The two sites are part of the Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative. The main goal of this cooperative is to enhance forest productivity in developing genetically improved trees with higher yield and better wood quality. The western hemlock progeny will require tube maintenance and the Douglas-fir progeny needs some vegetation control along the fence line and needs treatment of bigleaf maple clumps inside the unit. In the spring of 2022 the district began planting some wildflower seed for pollinators in a small trial. The project was expanded slightly in 2023 and 2024 and will be continued through 2025. The district will look for grant funding opportunities in 2026.

Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program

In Fiscal Year 2026 the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program staff will be working on the following planning efforts.

- Support the State Forest Division's Forest Management Plan work, Habitat Conservation Plan work, and District Annual Operation Plan development and implementation.
- Recreation Standards Manual development continues to be an on-going Recreation, Education, and Interpretation project (ex. fire pits, information boards, picnic tables, site signs, etc.).
- The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program continues to assess and update spatial data for recreation trails and facilities to improve delivery of information to both internal and external stakeholders.

Other Planning Operations

In conjunction with the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program, the District will provide input and context to recreation planning. The district will also continue to participate in Forest Management Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan reviews as needed.

Public Information and Education

Public Information and Involvement

A number of district employees annually participate in the local school Career Day, Clatsop County Job and Career Fair, Sixth Grade Forestry Tour and Field Day, demonstration forest tours, Clatsop County Fair booth, State Fair booth, Society of American Forestry meetings and tours, and many public school presentations. The district has representatives who attend local watershed council meetings, including the Upper and Lower Nehalem Watershed. The District Operations Coordinator is on the Board of Directors of the North Coast Watershed Association and the District Forester is an elected officer on the Clatsop Forest Economic Development Committee.

The Recreation, Education, & Interpretation Program offers various interpretation and educational programs and services on the State Forest system, with primary offerings featured at the Tillamook Forest Center, located at milepost 22 on the Wilson River Highway (Highway 6). The Tillamook Forest Center is ODF's only visitors' center, and while located on the Tillamook District, it serves as a hub for public education on forest-related topics, active forest management, fire prevention messaging, agency wide initiatives, and general information about the variety of

recreational opportunities available on state forests, while also offering meaningful interpretive programs to help promote a culture of forest stewardship and maintain public permission to manage state forests. The Tillamook Forest Center continues to host numerous school groups, family activities, and other forest visitors, and is open March through November annually.

The Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program is also actively engaged in additional community outreach and engagement efforts to raise awareness about the Program itself and the many benefits provided by the recreational and educational opportunities available on state forest lands. It should be noted that the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program staff is relatively small, and gratefully depends on the significant investments made by long-standing and committed volunteers, use-community partnerships, and generous donations to the Program's nonprofit funding partner, the State Forests Trust of Oregon, to help maintain and sustain its existing services and infrastructure to the public.

Administration

There are 21 permanent positions whose full-time function is to manage State Forest land on the District and 6 permanent positions who work part-time on management of State Forest land. In addition, the District will be supported by the Northwest Oregon Area Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program as well as the Division Planning and Operations Team. All are responsible for implementing the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan. The district positions are divided into four functional groups: Forest Marketing, Forest Roads, Reforestation, and Administration. See the attached organizational chart.

There is a Marketing Unit which is responsible for all aspects of timber marketing. These activities include participating in the planning process, unit layout, assisting with road layout and design, timber cruising, timber sale appraisal, contract writing, contract administration, and coordinating with the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program, Planning, and Operations Teams.

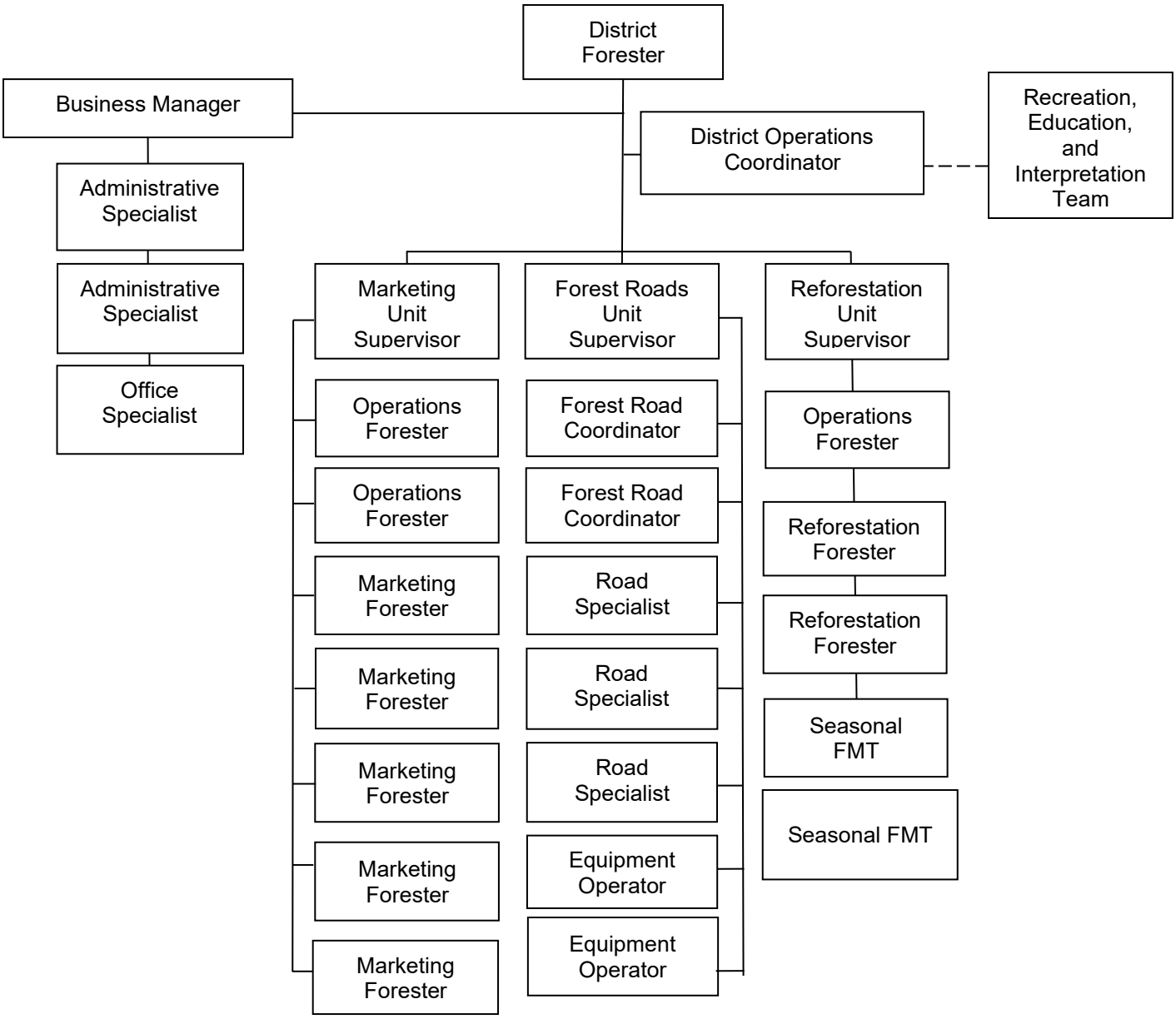
The Forest Roads unit is responsible for all aspects of road management and land surveying. These activities include road design and layout, rock pit development, road maintenance, property line location, road construction and improvement appraisals, contract preparation, and road contract administration. The Forest Roads unit works with the Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program, and Planning & Operations Teams in developing the Annual Operations Plan.

The Reforestation unit is responsible for all activities in forest stands from the time the harvesting is complete until the new stand produces commercial timber. The activities of this unit include site preparation, trapping, tree planting, vegetation management, stocking surveys, tree improvement, and pre-commercial thinning. The reforestation unit also coordinates South Fork crews and administers contracts to complete these tasks.

Administration consists of the District Forester, District Operations Coordinator, Office Manager, two Administrative Specialists, and Office Specialist. The District Forester and District Operations Coordinator provide policy direction, budget development, and oversight to the field units. The Office Manager, two Administrative Specialists, and Office Specialist provide clerical support to State Forest Management. These positions are responsible for initial public contact, distribution and filing of documents, and providing assistance at timber sale auctions. The Office Specialist is also responsible for issuing permits for firewood cutting, and special forest products.

Each of these units and teams are responsible for ensuring the management approaches, activities, and projects are designed to meet the goals, strategies, and objectives of the Forest Management Plan, Implementation Plan, Annual Operations Plan, and Recreation Plan. The sales and projects are coordinated across the district and with the Northwest Oregon Area and Division Teams from the development of the Annual Operations Plan to the final sale administration for consistency within and between units to meet common goals.

Astoria District Organization Chart



APPENDICES

A. Summary Tables

1. Harvest Operations – Financial Summary
2. Harvest Operations – Forest Resource Summary
3. Forest Road Management Summary
4. Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary
5. Recreation Management Summary

B. Vicinity Maps

1. Harvest Operations Vicinity Map
2. Recreational Facilities Vicinity Map
3. Fiscal Year 2026 Recreation Project Vicinity Map

C. Consultations with Other State Agencies

This appendix summarizes the results of consultations with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Transportation and other agencies as appropriate.

D. Public Comment Process

This appendix describes the results of the public comment process of this Annual Operations Plan.

E. Pre-Operations Reports

Pre-Operations Reports are available from the district upon request.

F. Forest Land Management Classification

G. Landscape Design

Appendix A – Summary Tables

- **Table A-1: Commercial Forest Management Operations - Financial Summary**
- **Table A-2: Commercial Forest Management Operations – Forest Resource Summary**
- **Table A-3: Forest Roads Summary**
- **Table A-4: Reforestation and Young Stand Management Summary**
- **Table A-5: Recreation Management – Financial Summary**

TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: Astoria **Fiscal Year:** 2026 **Date:** 07/01/2025

AOP Sale Name	Fund %		County	Sale Quarter[1]	Net Acres		Volume (MMBF)			Value		
	BOF	CSL			Partial Cut	Clear-cut	Con-ifer	Hard-woods	Total	Gross	Projects	Net
Erock	100%	0%	Clatsop	2nd	0	134	5.4	0	5.4	$2,144,000	$77,400	$2,066,600
Middle Big Noise	100%	0%	Clatsop	1st	0	192	8.3	0	8.3	$3,531,750	$16,700	$3,515,050
Ridge Walker	100%	0%	Clatsop	2nd	0	89	4.9	0	4.9	$2,692,250	$131,400	$2,560,850
Sager	75%	25%	Clatsop	3rd	0	209	10.0	0	10.0	$6,012,000	$187,100	$5,824,900
Seven Cow Thin	100%	0%	Clatsop	3rd	436	0	3.4	0	3.4	$1,308,575	$256,600	$1,051,975
Slough Hill - FY25 Alt	100%	0%	Clatsop	4th	0	120	4.2	0	4.2	$1,470,000	$126,000	$1,344,000
Sweet Fry	100%	0%	Clatsop	2nd	0	193	5.7	0	5.7	$1,955,925	$197,100	$1,758,825
Wild Gander - FY25 Alt	100%	0%	Clatsop	3rd	0	288	12.5	0	12.5	$5,010,000	$582,200	$4,427,800
				Sub-total:	436	1,225	54.4	0	54.4	$ 24,124,500	$ 1,574,500	$ 22,550,000
				Project WOC Sub-total:	0	0	0.0	0	0.0		$189,000	
				Total:	436	1,225	54.4	0	54.4	$ 24,124,500	$1,763,500	$ 22,361,000
Alternate Operations												
Scout Walker - FY25 Alt	100%	0%	Clatsop	alt	0	149	7.7	0	7.7	$4,220,700	$289,300	$3,931,400
Vesper Road Thin	100%	0%	Clatsop	alt	219	0	1.6	0	1.6	$595,500	$57,700	$537,800
				Total:	219	149	9	0	9.2	$ 4,816,200	$ 347,000.00	$ 4,469,200

[1]The sale quarter is when the timber sale contract is intended to be sent to Salem for processing. It is anticipated that the timber sale will be sold in the following quarter.

PRIMARY HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

District: Astoria **Fiscal Year** 2026 **Date:** 07/01/2025

This table lists Forest Resources and other issues addressed within Pre-Operations Report due to their presence within or near harvest operations

Primary Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues [1]	Invasive Species	Current LYR/OFS Structures [2]	Landcape Design LYR/OFS [3]	Habitat Conservation Area (HCA)	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Road Construction within RCA/HCA	Point of Diversion (Domestic Water)	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement [4]	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle (BA Required)	Operating within a MMMA (BA Required)	Murrelet Timber Sale Screening Process Required (MM Policy 2.27)	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route [5]	T&E/SOC Species	Geotechnical - Additional Review Required	Recreation Sites	Scenic Resources	Adjacent Private Landowner (Shared Property line)	Other Resources or Issues
Erock	1,2	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	
Middle Big Noise	1,2	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	
Ridge Walker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
Sager	1,2,3	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	x	x	
Seven Cow Thin	1-7	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	All Units are within an HCA. Northrup Creek Horse Camp is adjacent to and non-motorized trails are within Unit 1
Slough Hill	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	x	
Sweet Fry	1,2,3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	x	
Wild Gander	1-6	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	x	

ALTERNATE HARVEST OPERATIONS - FOREST RESOURCE SUMMARY

This table lists Forest Resources and other issues addressed within Pre-Operations Report due to their presence within or near harvest operations

Alternate Harvest Operations	Unit (Optional)	Forest Health Issues [1]	Invasive Species	Current LYR/OFS Structures [2]	Landcape Design LYR/OFS [3]	Habitat Conservation Area (HCA)	Install/Replace Culverts on Fish Bearing / Perennial Streams	Road Construction within RCA/HCA	Point of Diversion (Domestic Water)	Potential Stream Habitat Improvement [4]	Within Aquatic Anchor	Within Terrestrial Anchor	Operating within a NSO Provincial Circle (BA Required)	Operating within a MMMA (BA Required)	Murrelet Timber Sale Screening Process Required (MM Policy 2.27)	T&E Fish Adjacent to Harvest Unit / Haul Route [5]	T&E/SOC Species	Geotechnical - Additional Review Required	Recreation Sites	Scenic Resources	Adjacent Private Landowner (Shared Property line)	Other Resources or Issues
Scout Walker	1,2,3	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	
Vesper Road Thin	1,2	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	x	Approximately 2ac of Unit 1 within an HCA

[1] A 'x' (in any column) indicates yes the resource or other issue occurs within or near the harvest operation and is addressed by the Pre-Operations Report

[2] A 'x' indicates the harvest operation contains stands that are currently in a Layered or Older Forest Stand Structure

[3] A 'x' indicate that the operation contains areas that have been designated for the development of complex forest stands (LYR/OFS)

[4] The final decision on these projects will occur during sale preparation and inconsultation with ODFW.

[5] This table lists harvest operations (units or log haul routes) that are adjacent to streams that are known to contain T&E fish. The Pre-Operation Report identifies whether T&E fish are present in the basin.

FOREST ROADS SUMMARY

District: Astoria **Fiscal Year:** 2026 **Date:** 07/01/2025

Primary Operations	Construction		Improvement, Rock, and/or Maintenance		Road Vacating		Other Projects	Total Project Costs	Gross Value of Operation	Total Cost as a percent of Gross Value	Comments
	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost					
Erock	0.20	$15,000	4.70	$47,000	0.00	$0	$15,400	$77,400	$2,144,000	3.6%	Brushing & Waterhole Imp.
Middle Big Noise	0.00	$0.00	2.20	$14,200	0.00	$0	$2,500	$16,700	$3,531,750	0.5%	
Ridge Walker	0.30	$22,500	5.10	$84,900	0.00	$0	$24,000	$131,400	$2,692,250	4.9%	
Sager	0.40	$26,100	5.90	$104,000	0.00	$0	$57,000	$187,100	$6,012,000	3.1%	Rock Dev. & Waterhole Imp.
Seven Cow Thin	2.50	$135,000	13.80	$111,100	0.00	$0	$10,500	$256,600	$1,308,575	19.6%	
Slough Hill - FY25 Alt	1.10	$62,500	2.30	$39,000	0.00	$0	$24,500	$126,000	$1,470,000	8.6%	Waterhole Imp.
Sweet Fry	0.40	$25,500	11.70	$150,500	0.00	$0	$21,100	$197,100	$1,955,925	10.1%	Rock Dev., Brushing & Waterhole Imp.
Wild Gander - FY25 Alt	1.40	$100,500	14.50	$217,500	0.00	$0	$264,200	$582,200	$5,010,000	11.6%	Rock Dev. & Waterhole Imp.
Sub-total	**6.3**	**$387,100**	**60.2**	**$768,200**	**0.0**	**$0**	**$419,200**	**$1,574,500**	**$24,124,500**	**6.5%**	
Sub-total WOC (see below)	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**				**$189,000**			
Totals	**6.3**	**$387,100**	**60.2**	**$768,200**	**$0**	**$0**	**$419,200**	**$1,763,500**	**$24,124,500**	**7.3%**	

Alternate Operations

Scout Walker	0.80	$55,800	8.40	$206,500	0.00	$0	$27,000	$289,300	$4,220,700	6.9%	
Vesper Road Thin	0.30	$13,500	5.80	$42,600	0.00	$0	$1,600	$57,700	$595,500	9.7%	
Total	**1.10**	**$69,300**	**14.2**	**$249,100**	**0.0**	**$0**	**$28,600**	**$347,000**	**$4,816,200**	**7.2%**	

Projects to be Completed as a Work Order Contract

Operation	Construction		Improvement, Rock, and/or Maintenance		Road Vacating		Other Projects	Total Project Costs	Funding Source	Comments
	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost				
Roadside Spray							$89,000	$89,000	FDF	
Walker Ridge/Sager Brushing							$100,000	$100,000		
Total	**0.00**	**$0**	**0.00**	**$0**	**0.00**	**$0**	**$189,000**	**$189,000**		

REFORESTATION AND YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: Astoria **Fiscal Year:** 2026 **Date:** 12/13/2024

Projects Conducted by ODF Staff or Contractors	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
*Site Prep - Piling Burning	1,300	$3.50	$4,550.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	1,300	$4,550.00
Site Prep - Mechanical	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Aerial	1,200	$95.00	$114,000.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	1,200	$114,000.00
Site Prep - Chemical - Ground	100	$176.00	$17,600.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	100	$17,600.00
Initial Planting	1,400	$194.00	$271,600.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	1,400	$271,600.00
Interplanting	200	$158.00	$31,600.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	200	$31,600.00
Underplanting	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Tree Protection - Barriers	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Tree Protection - Direct Control	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Release - Chemical - Aerial	600	$112.00	$67,200.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	600	$67,200.00
Release - Chemical - Ground	100	$176.00	$17,600.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	100	$17,600.00
Release - Manual	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
*Stocking Surveys	2,500	$1.00	$2,500.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	2,500	$2,500.00
Invasive Species	150	$160.00	$24,000.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	150	$24,000.00
Other (Drone Photo / Application)	50	$120.00	$6,000.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	50	$6,000.00
Totals	**7,600**	**--**	**$556,650.00**	**0**	**--**	**$0.00**	**7,600**	**$556,650.00**

* Work to be completed by ODF staff; cost are for materials only

Projects Conducted by Adults in Custody (*costs are for materials only*)	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	BOF Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	CSL Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Site Prep - Broadcast Burning	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Site Prep - Piling Burning	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Site Prep - Mechanical	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Initial Planting	40	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	40	$0.00
Interplanting	40	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	40	$0.00
Underplanting	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Tree Protection - Barriers	0	$72.59	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Tree Protection - Direct Control	500	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	500	$0.00
Release - Manual	200	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	200	$0.00
Precommercial Thinning	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Invasive Species	75	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	75	$0.00
Other		$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00	$0.00	0	$0.00
Totals	**855**	**--**	**$0.00**	**0**	**--**	**$0.00**	**855**	**$0.00**

Grant Funded Activities	Board of Forestry			Common School Forest Lands			District	
Project	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Acres Planned	Average Cost*/Acre	Cost	Total Acres	Total Cost
Precommercial Thinning	200	$265.00	$53,000.00			$0.00	200	$53,000.00

RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: Astoria **Fiscal Year:** 2026 **Date:** 02/06/2025

Project	Construction Projects		Improvement Projects		Operations & Maintenance Projects		Total Costs	Comments
	ODF ($)	Other ($)	ODF ($)	Other ($)	ODF ($)	Other ($)		
Campgrounds								
Vault Toilet Pumping					$14,200	$800	$15,000	Other($)- ATV Transfer Fund
Garbage Service					$27,500		$27,500	
Miscellaneous Maintenance					$800		$800	Well Testing
Trailheads/ Day Use Areas								
Vault Toilet Pumping					$1,300	$800	$2,100	Other($)- ATV Transfer Fund
Garbage Service					$750		$750	
Miscellaneous Maintenance								
Other Operations								
					FDF Total		$44,550	
					Other Total		$1,600	
						TOTAL	**$46,150**	

RECREATION TRAIL MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Project	Miles	Construction Projects		Improvement Projects		Operations & Maintenance Projects		Total Costs	Comments
		ODF ($)	Other ($)	ODF ($)	Other ($)	ODF ($)	Other ($)		
Non-Motorized									
None									
Motorized									
Plympton Creek West Trail Bridge Replacement							$10,000	$10,000	ODF OHV Program Staff- ATV Fund*
Plympton Creek West Re-route	0.4								ODF OHV Program Staff- ATV Fund*
						FDF Total		$0	
						Other Total		$10,000	
							TOTAL	**$10,000**	

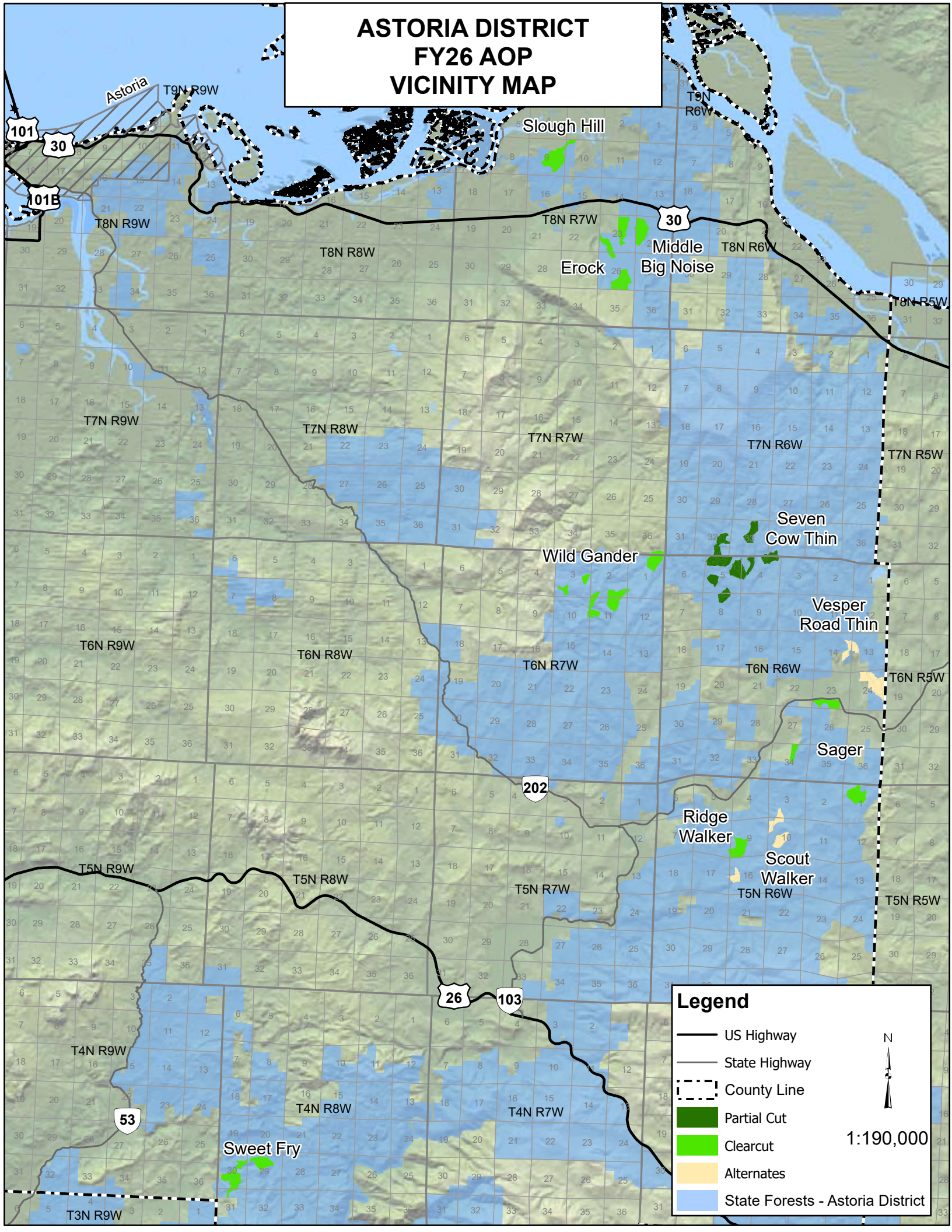
*A portion of the motorized recreation costs are funded through OPRD ATV funds.

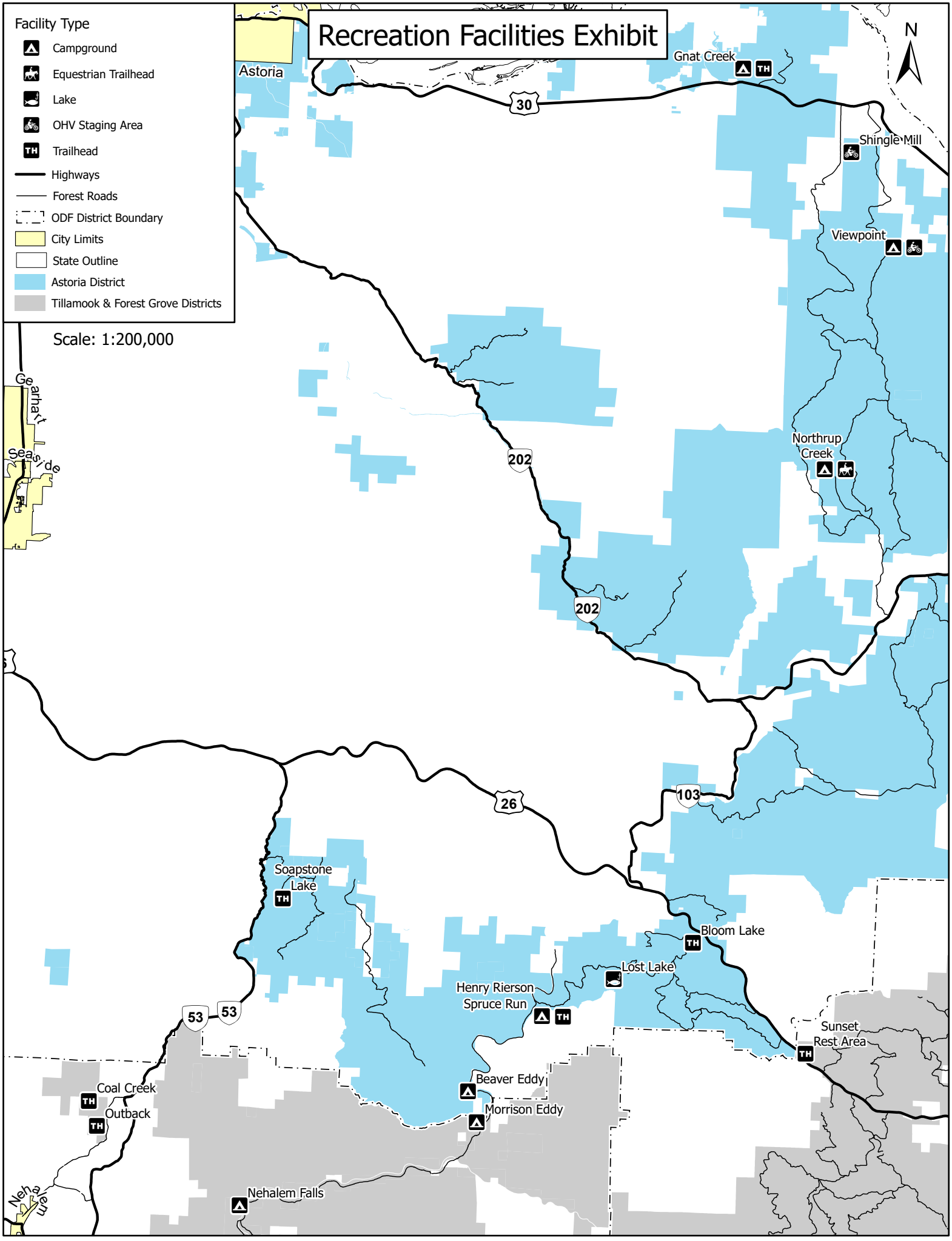
RECREATION GRANT MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

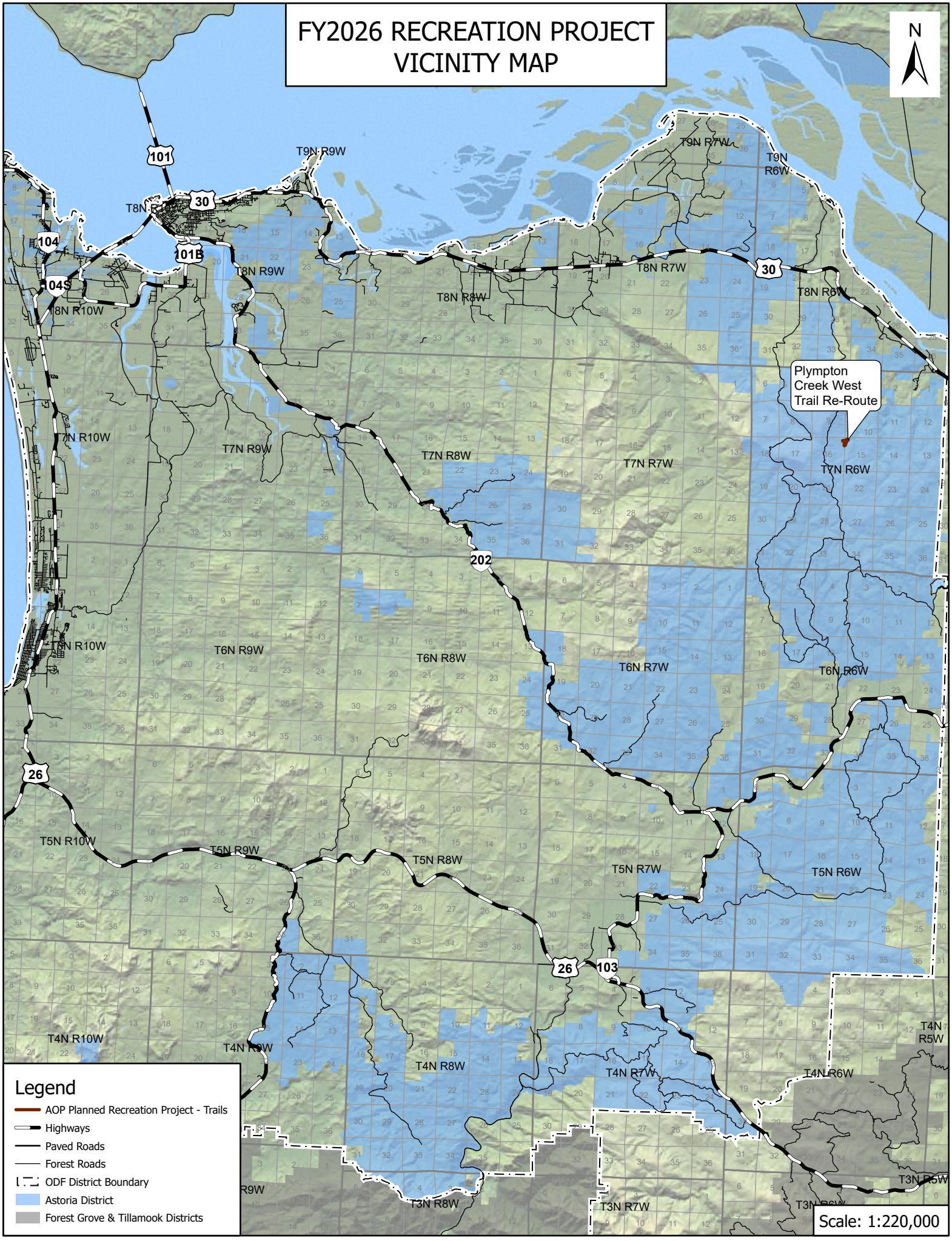
Grant	Status	Award Date (actual or anticipated)	Recreation Leadership Approval	Goals/Purpose	Funding		Project Total	Comments
					Grant ($)	Match ($)		
None							$0	
					FDF Total		$0	
					Match Total		$0	
						TOTAL	**$0**	

Appendix B – Vicinity Maps

- **Harvest Operations Vicinity Map**
- **Recreation Facilities Vicinity Map**
- **Fiscal Year 2026 Recreation Project Vicinity Map**


ASTORIA DISTRICT
FY26 AOP
VICINITY MAP
Astoria
T9N R9W
T9N R6W
Slough Hill
101
30
101B
T8N R9W
T8N R8W
T8N R7W
T8N R6W
T8N R5W
Erock
Middle
Big Noise
T7N R9W
T7N R8W
T7N R7W
T7N R6W
T7N R5W
Seven
Cow Thin
Wild Gander
Vesper
Road Thin
T6N R9W
T6N R8W
T6N R7W
T6N R6W
T6N R5W
Sager
202
Ridge
Walker
Scout
Walker
T5N R9W
T5N R8W
T5N R7W
T5N R6W
T5N R5W
26
103
T4N R9W
T4N R8W
T4N R7W
53
Sweet Fry
T3N R9W
Legend
US Highway
State Highway
County Line
Partial Cut
Clearcut
Alternates
State Forests - Astoria District
N
1:190,000


Recreation Facilities Exhibit
Facility Type
Campground
Equestrian Trailhead
Lake
OHV Staging Area
Trailhead
Highways
Forest Roads
ODF District Boundary
City Limits
State Outline
Astoria District
Tillamook & Forest Grove Districts
Scale: 1:200,000
N
Astoria
Gnat Creek
30
Shingle Mill
Viewpoint
Northrup Creek
202
202
Gearhart
Seaside
26
103
Soapstone Lake
Bloom Lake
Lost Lake
Henry Rierson Spruce Run
53
53
Sunset Rest Area
Beaver Eddy
Morrison Eddy
Coal Creek
Outback
Nehalem Falls
Nehalem


FY2026 RECREATION PROJECT
VICINITY MAP
N
Plympton
Creek West
Trail Re-Route
T9N R9W
T9N R7W
T9N
R6W
T8N R9W
T8N R8W
T8N R7W
T8N R6W
T8N R10W
T7N R10W
T7N R9W
T7N R8W
T7N R7W
T7N R6W
T6N R10W
T6N R9W
T6N R8W
T6N R7W
T6N R6W
T5N R10W
T5N R9W
T5N R8W
T5N R7W
T5N R6W
T4N R10W
T4N R9W
T4N R8W
T4N R7W
T4N R6W
T4N
R5W
T3N R8W
T3N R7W
T3N R6W
101
30
104
101B
04S
202
26
103
Legend
AOP Planned Recreation Project - Trails
Highways
Paved Roads
Forest Roads
ODF District Boundary
Astoria District
Forest Grove & Tillamook Districts
Scale: 1:220,000

Appendix C – Consultations with Other State Agencies

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW):

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists were provided the Summary Document and Pre-Operations Reports for review. A follow up cooperator/specialist meeting was held to address questions and concerns. ODF&W expressed an interest in working with ODFs Stream Specialist on identifying potential stream enhancement projects and prescriptions throughout the coming fiscal year.

Appendix D – Public Comment Process

The Oregon Department of Forestry issued a Press Release in April 2025, announcing a formal 45-day public comment period for the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plans from April 18, 2025 through June 3, 2025.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period is to provide an opportunity for the public to review the Annual Operations Plan, ask questions, make recommendations and offer comments. As a public agency, ODF strives to operate in the best interest of Oregonians. We provide opportunities for public participation to assist us in securing the greatest permanent value from state forests for all Oregonians.

The following changes have been made to Astoria FY26 AOP since the Public Comment Period:

Annual Operation Reports:

- Dropped Mothball Hill from list of potential sales.
- Modified Ridge Walker sale from an Alternate to a Primary Sale.

Summary Tables:

- Updated summary tables to reflect dropping Mothball Hill from the list of Primary Sales and moving Ridge Walker to replace it.
- Updated Table A-3 to include Walker Ridge/Sager Brushing Work Order Contract.

Summary Document:

- Updated summary document to reflect changes to Primary and Alternate list as well as the addition of the Walker Ridge/Sager Brushing Work Order Contract

Appendix E – Pre-Operations Reports

There are several ways to access the documents and maps that have been developed for the FY2026 Annual Operations Plan. These options include the following:

- Do a google search for ODF, click on “State Forests”, scroll down halfway down the web page to “Management & planning” then expand using the plus sign next to Annual Operations Plan and click on the link.
- Enter this link into the internet search tool and hit enter. https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/aops.aspx
- Utilize the QR Code below to take you directly to the websites using a mobile device. Open the Camera app on your phone. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

ODF State Forest Plans. Click on the QR code to the left. Scroll down the web page.

Use this link for general information on the Annual Operations Plans, public comment period, District Summary Documents, individual sale and project pre-operation reports and when the annual operations plans have been approved, a link to the summary of public comments received and the agency response.

Map Viewer: Use this link for spatial locations of the proposed forest projects (recreation, roads and timber harvest) which contain links to their individual pre operation reports.

Zoom into the location you are interested in. As you zoom in on the map, forest operations will appear. Click on the forest operation for additional information to display.

Appendix F – Forest Land Management Classification

Modification Notice

No modifications are proposed with the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan.

Appendix G – Landscape Design

Implementation Plan Minor Modification Notice

No modifications are proposed with the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operations Plan.